



Economic and Social Council

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E/1995/SR.5
23 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational session for 1995

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 10 February 1995, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. KAMAL

(Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU (continued)

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed that Mr. Nicolescu (Romania) had been nominated for the post of Vice-President from the Group of Eastern European States for 1995.

Mr. Nicolescu (Romania) was elected Vice-President of the Council for 1995 by acclamation.

BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL (continued) (E/1995/1 and Add.1, E/1995/8, E/1995/13; E/1995/L.1 and L.2)

The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with Council resolution 1988/77, he and the members of the Bureau had submitted the draft proposals contained in document E/1995/L.2.

Draft decision I on the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1995

The PRESIDENT said that, in informal consultations, consensus had been reached on the theme for the high-level segment, namely, "Development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa".

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, in order to establish a link between the high-level segment and the policy dialogue with the representatives of multilateral financial and trade organizations, the European Union proposed that the following phrase should be added to the draft decision:

"Proper consideration should also be given to this theme during the policy dialogue with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system".

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) said that the development of Africa went beyond the sphere of competence of the Bretton Woods institutions. He would prefer the amendment to read: "... dialogue with heads of various institutions, in particular, multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system". There were many institutions which were involved in

the development of Africa, and would be represented at the high-level segment; African policy-makers would want to have a dialogue with all of them.

Mr. DELACROIX (France) said that the European Union had referred to two categories of institutions because they were normally invited to the policy dialogue. However, it could accept the amendment proposed by the Observer for Benin.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that if the Council approved the amendment proposed by the Observer for Benin, it would be moving away from the concept of a one-day policy dialogue as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 45/264. Although that dialogue was intended to involve the multilateral financial and trade institutions, other organizations were able to participate in the high-level segment.

Mr. PANKIN (Russian Federation) said that his delegation's understanding of the policy dialogue with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions was that it was intended to be a wide-ranging discussion of all questions of concern to members of the Council. It fully supported the idea that the theme of the development of Africa should be one of the questions covered by the dialogue. However, the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 48/162 allowed for all delegations to raise any question of concern to them.

The PRESIDENT said that the French amendment did not imply that the policy dialogue would be confined to the theme of development of Africa.

Mr. PANKIN (Russian Federation) said that his delegation would be reluctant to change the formula of the policy dialogue laid down in General Assembly resolution 45/264.

Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that the "Bretton Woods Day" had been designed by the relevant General Assembly and Council resolutions to focus on the heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions. Heads of United Nations development programmes and funds could participate in the operational activities segment, although they were also welcome to attend the "Bretton Woods Day", and had done so in the past. The amendment by the Observer for Benin would run counter to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 and other resolutions.

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) said that it had not been his intention to exclude the World Trade Organization, or any other institution, from the policy dialogue.

African development was not confined to financial questions. African delegations wanted to take the opportunity to discuss problems of development with a number of institutions. Since 1991, African delegations had sought to have a theme relating to African development included in the high-level segment, and they now wanted all institutions to be present. Many institutions were involved in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa; it would not be possible to talk to only two or three institutions and exclude the others.

Mr. DELACROIX (France) said that he wished to reassure the representative of Benin that there would be a dialogue with all institutions of the system during the high-level segment. Perhaps his amendment would be acceptable if the words "of the United Nations system" were deleted; it would thus follow the working of General Assembly resolution 48/162.

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) asked for an explanation of the format of the high-level segment, who would be invited, and what the legal status of its conclusions would be.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that the high-level segment had two sections: a dialogue and discussion of a theme by Governments and a special day, usually the first or second day, devoted to a dialogue with multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system, namely the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Other organizations had also been able to take part in that dialogue.

Mr. AVALLE (Observer for Argentina) said that it was necessary to distinguish between the two parts of the dialogue. One of the great achievements of General Assembly resolution 45/264 was that for the first time there was a forum where Governments could discuss microeconomic policies with the heads of the multilateral financial and trade institutions. It was very important to maintain a relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions. It was acceptable to have a specific theme for consideration in the policy dialogue. However, it would be unwise to change the terms of reference of

General Assembly resolution 45/264 and to lose the opportunity for that dialogue.

Mr. NKOUNKOU (Congo) said that his delegation agreed that the Council should not depart from the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Further consultations might be needed on the consequences of inviting other institutions to take part in the policy dialogue.

Mr. OJIMBA (Nigeria) said that the African delegations had worked very hard to secure agreement on the theme for the high-level segment and would not want to lose the unique opportunity to focus attention on African development.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council was getting involved in two separate issues. Under the French amendment, the theme of African development would be considered not only in the high-level segment but also in the policy dialogue and there seemed to be full consensus on that point. The Council was now taking up the question of who would be invited to the policy dialogue, although there had not been time to consider that aspect and it would have to be taken up at the next organizational session. In the meantime, he would initiate contacts with the World Trade Organization.

He suggested that the French amendment should be amended to read, "Proper consideration should also be given to this theme during the policy dialogue in the high-level segment".

Draft decision I, as amended, was adopted.

Draft decision II on the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1995

The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of consultations, consensus had been reached on the following theme for the coordination segment: "Coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields".

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, proposed that the words "and implementation" should be added after "Coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system".

Draft decision II, as orally amended, was adopted.

Draft decision III on the proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, referred to item 9 (b) of the proposed provisional agenda, concerning international cooperation in the field of information systems. He said that the provisions concerning access to United Nations data systems were of considerable importance to developing countries; their implementation, however, had not been very satisfactory, and he wondered why.

The PRESIDENT said that the matter would be referred to the relevant Secretariat unit.

Mr. PANKIN (Russian Federation), referring to items 4 (a) and 6 (e) of the proposed provisional agenda and to document E/1995/L.4, asked whether it was appropriate to retain the various references to the International Conference on Population and Development and to the implementation of its programme of action.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs), said that the general segment seemed to be the appropriate place for discussion of those issues; however, document E/1995/L.4 seemed to suggest that they were also to be discussed in the context of operational activities for international development. It was, of course, for the Council to decide. He would welcome guidance from the Council as to whether the documentation being prepared for that discussion should be made available for both discussions.

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin), referring to the question raised by the representative of the Philippines, said that little had been done to implement the various resolutions on the subject of United Nations data systems, and asked what action the Secretariat intended to take to remedy the situation.

Mr. AGONA (Uganda), referring to the agenda for the general segment, and particularly to item 5 (g) (Crime prevention and criminal justice), asked for assurances that the participation of the least developed countries in activities connected with the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be funded by the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/157 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/19.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that a great deal had already been

done to implement the resolutions on access to United Nations data systems. The Secretary-General would provide a full report to the Council at its substantive session. As for the matter of the participation of least developed countries in the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Secretariat would ensure that the relevant provisions were carried out.

Regarding the discussion of the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, he suggested that, as a compromise solution, the Council might wish the debate on the issue to take place during the operational activities segment and action on the matter to be taken, without a debate, during the general segment.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to follow that procedure.

It was so decided.

Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) said that his delegation would support the deletion of item 6 (e) of the proposed provisional agenda, since the scope of the discussions planned for the working-level meetings in the operational activities segment, as described in document E/1995/L.4, had been expanded to include the question of follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) proposed that the documents referred to should indeed be made available at the operational activities segment as well as at the general segment, since the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development was to be discussed at the high-level meeting on the first day of the operational activities segment.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria), supported by Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin), said that if there was to be no debate at the general segment on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, additional time should be devoted to it at the operational activities segment; one day would not be enough for a truly meaningful discussion.

The PRESIDENT said that, while duplication was to be avoided, sufficient importance should indeed be accorded to the subject.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) suggested that even though there would be a high-level discussion of the subject during the operational activities segment,

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there would still be room for continued consideration during the general segment. It would be well, therefore, to leave the issue on the agenda for the general segment, at which informal consultations would be held in order to prepare a resolution to be adopted during that segment.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria), supported by Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) and Mr. DELACROIX (France), said that the solution seemed satisfactory.

Draft decision III was adopted.

Draft decision IV on regional cooperation

Draft decision IV was adopted.

Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) said that his delegation had been pleased to join the consensus on the draft decision on the understanding that it placed the highest importance of South-South cooperation, but that it wanted to allow extra time for the regional commissions to prepare for the discussion.

Draft decision V on consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies

Draft decision V was adopted.

Draft decision VI on the basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1996

Draft decision VI was adopted.

Draft decision VII on the Commission on Population and Development and periodicity of its meetings

Draft decision VII was adopted.

Draft decision VIII on the dates of the fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Draft decision VIII was adopted.

Draft decision IX on the dates of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Draft decision IX was adopted.

Draft decision X on the dates of the twelfth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

Draft decision X was adopted.

Draft decision on the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment (E/1995/L.4)

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the text of draft decision E/1995/L.4 had been the subject of extensive and constructive consultations, which had led to a consensus.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) expressed the concern of his delegation over the growing tendency of decisions taken during the Council's organizational session to have more to do with the substance of issues than with organizational matters. He hoped that the Secretariat would take due note of that concern.

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) agreed that matters of substance outside the competence of the organizational session had been taken up. The provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 on the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council must be respected in the future.

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he shared the concerns expressed by Algeria and Benin.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that he had taken due note of the expressions of concern, which seemed to suggest that the Secretariat should play a larger role in the drafting of legislation to come before the Council.

With regard to the third paragraph under "Day 1" of the draft decision, he requested further guidance on the type of documentation the Council had in mind. Normally, the outcome of a conference such as the World Summit for Social Development would have no official status until action had been taken by the General Assembly.

With regard to information from the specialized agencies and related organizations, for most items, he pointed out that, in accordance with past practice, the Council would have asked the Secretary-General to consolidate the contributions of the specialized agencies into a single document. As it stood, the draft decision would result in a proliferation of reports that might prove difficult to deal with.

Turning to "Day 2", in the second paragraph, the draft decision did not contain an actual request for a report of the Secretary-General concerning the comprehensive triennial policy review. He wondered if that was an inadvertent omission or a conscious decision to change the existing procedure.

The PRESIDENT said that the change in procedure regarding the specialized agencies had arisen from the concern that, since there would be only one spokesman, the individual agencies would not see their separate points of

view represented. Their views would thus be conveyed through an individual paper; no synthesis document was desired.

With regard to paragraph 3 under "Day 2", the following sentence should be added at the end of the paragraph: "In this context, the Council shall have before it for consideration the Secretary-General's report on the comprehensive triennial policy review."

Draft decision E/1995/L.4, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council would take up at its resumed organizational session the manner in which the report of the World Summit for Social Development was to be discussed at the high-level meeting.

It was so decided.

Draft decision on international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities (E/1995/L.5)

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines), introducing the draft decision on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was aimed at resolving apparent contradictions in some General Assembly draft resolutions, and stressed that it in no way prejudged the consideration of other items at the high-level segment.

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reiterated the Union's reservations to the draft decision on procedural grounds, and suggested other alternatives, such as holding high-level discussions on the drug problem at a later date during the session, or deferring discussion to the organizational session in 1996.

Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) reminded the Council of its heavy schedule of upcoming meetings and other obligations. While the subject of narcotic drugs merited attention at a high political level, the draft decision allowed for the consideration of alternative themes as late as the Council's 1996 organizational session.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the opposition to the draft decision, the Council was faced with a choice between two undesirable alternatives: to change the word "Decides" in paragraph 1 to "Strongly recommends", or to postpone a decision on the matter until its resumed organizational session.

After a discussion in which Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin), Mr. DELACROIX (France), Ms. MORGAN (Mexico) and Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines) took part,

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the PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to defer further discussion of the item to the following meeting.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (continued) (E/1995/L.3)

Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece) introduced draft decision E/1995/L.3.

Draft decision E/1995/L.3 was adopted.

AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT reminded members that in its resolution 49/126, the General Assembly had decided to establish an ad-hoc open-ended working group to elaborate further an action-oriented comprehensive agenda for development. The Assembly had also requested the Council to consider ways and means of providing further substantive input to the work of the ad hoc working group. The discussions at the Council's high-level and coordination segments would be an important input for that work. In order to establish a framework for such an exchange of views, he suggested that he should be authorized to invite the President of the General Assembly to make a statement before the Council at its upcoming session.

It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

Extraordinary additional session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1995 (E/1995/8; E/1995/L.1)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to document E/1995/8, which contained a draft decision transmitted to the Council by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft decision was contained in document E/1995/L.1. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision in document E/1995/8.

It was so decided.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) stated that as a reflection of the importance it attached to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Kingdom had been happy to join the consensus on the draft decision. It noted with regret, however, that in the Secretariat's judgement, additional resources would be required to fund the substantive costs connected with two extraordinary meetings of the Committee to be held in 1995. It hoped that after further consideration by the Advisory Committee on

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Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee at its forthcoming resumed session, no additional appropriation would prove necessary. If, however, the requirement for additional resources remained and could not subsequently be met from the contingency fund, his delegation expected that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 would apply, namely, that the additional requirements should be met by redeploying resources from low-priority areas or modifying existing activities. If that proved impossible, consideration should be given to deferring the extraordinary meetings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights until a later biennium.

Mr. USUI (Japan) stated that, while his delegation joined in the consensus, it could not fully endorse the draft decision, as his Government was of the view that the backlog of reports from States Parties might be partly due to the Committee's working procedures. His delegation therefore hoped that the Committee would first review its working methods in the context of its original mandate, so that it could concentrate more on periodic reports, thereby eliminating the need for extraordinary additional sessions.

Letter dated 3 February 1995 from the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to the President of the Council

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a letter dated 3 February 1995 from the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to the President of the Council (E/1995/13), requesting the rescheduling of the Committee's 1995 session to some time during the second quarter of 1995. While an extremely heavy schedule of meetings precluded setting a firm new date, there appeared to be a possibility of accommodating the session during April. He therefore suggested that the Bureau of the Council should continue to look for appropriate dates in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee.

Ms. LIM (Philippines) reminded the Committee that the Commission on the Status of Women would be holding its thirty-ninth session from 15 March to 4 April, when it would be conducting its final consideration of the platform of action of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in Beijing. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would also be considering many applications for consultative status, as well as the quadrennial reports of non-governmental organizations in status, all of which would require time. In view of the considerable burden that the sessions of such important bodies would place on

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delegations, she hoped that the Secretariat could resolve the problem by deferring the session of the Committee.

Mr. DELACROIX (France) pointed out a further potential scheduling conflict with the session of the Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations.

Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that, given the heavy schedule of meetings, scheduling conflicts were inevitable. He suggested that the Council should revert to the matter at the following meeting.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Committee agreed that the Bureau should continue to look for appropriate dates for the rescheduled meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.



Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1995/SR.6
27 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational session for 1995

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 10 February 1995, at 5 p.m.

President:

Mr. PAPADATOS
(Vice-President)

(Greece)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Papadatos (Greece),
Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 5.35 p.m.

JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

Mr. PIOT (Director, Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS), introducing the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations to the Economic and Social Council, said that as recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/24 of 26 July 1994 the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations had been established in September 1994. It constituted a single global response to AIDS from the United Nations system, and represented a commitment by the six co-sponsoring agencies, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank, to support AIDS-specific activities on a local and global level, and to include AIDS-related activities on their own normal agendas. In each country, the joint programme would support countries' responses to AIDS through an inter-agency AIDS coordination group known as a Theme Group. All United Nations system funding would be coordinated by those Theme Groups. Funding for country activities would primarily go through existing mechanisms. At global level, there would be a unified budget, and fund-raising would be jointly arranged by the different agencies. Since his appointment in December 1994 the programme had been developing a strategic plan, which would lead to a programme of work and define the objectives of the Programme, and should also result in a budget based on the strategic plan. Mechanisms were being developed for working at country level and for country coordination, and negotiations were taking place on the administrative and legal arrangements to be made among the six agencies. The programme should be fully operational by January 1996, but intended to make an immediate start on AIDS-related activities.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) recalled the provisions of paragraph 11 of Council resolution 1994/24, requesting informal consultations to decide the composition of the Programme Coordinating Board and review the detailed programme proposal. Good progress had been made so far: the Director of the

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Programme had been appointed, and the Council had the draft of the Committee's first report before it. With reference to the contents of that report, it had been agreed that the substance of the joint programme, as set out in sections III and IV, was appropriate. Part V required further development, especially regarding the Legal Instrument. There had been general agreement that section VI needed to be revised, and the consultative group had drawn up a new text, which was the product of consultations and was a recommendation only. Comment on sections VII and VIII had been broadly supportive of their contents, but they required amplification. With reference to the Programme Coordinating Board, consultations had been proceeding and a substantive document should soon be available. He was confident that an agreed recommendation on the constitution of the Board would be produced in time for the Council to take a decision by April 1995 at the latest.

Mr. AGONA (Uganda), referring to section I of the report, said there was a need to emphasize the lack of drugs and facilities and the unavailability of condoms in many developing countries. More stress could be placed on the incidence of the disease, since some sources predicted that in 17 developing countries, AIDS would reduce population growth rates so dramatically that by the year 2010, those countries would have 121 million fewer inhabitants than previously estimated. In Africa, Uganda was worst affected, with life expectancy, currently standing at 47 years, expected to fall to about 42.9 by the year 2005. Such trends had serious implications for productivity, and would compound poverty, further encouraging the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Poverty was a major factor in the spread of AIDS, and an effective AIDS programme should address that question.

The global nature of the problem required cooperation by the international community. The Joint and Co-sponsored Programme should not be merely an exercise in coordination, but an effective approach to the fight against HIV/AIDS, which would receive both the political and financial support of the international community. Funding commensurate with the magnitude of the problem was essential if the spread of HIV/AIDS were not to continue unabated.

Clear targets for the actions of the Joint Programme must be defined; appropriate strategies for use at country level should be promoted and supported; the special needs of the countries most affected, which were often very poor, should be considered, and there was a need for impact assessment.

The Programme should be the primary source of policy and strategic guidance on HIV/AIDS within the United Nations system. The global nature of the problem should be highlighted. At country level, strengthening the national response to HIV/AIDS would require support. He welcomed the proposed series of consultations and field visits to further develop the Programme's operational strategies. The participation in the Theme Group of representatives of Governments was crucial.

With reference to section VI, he suggested that a standing committee of the Programme Coordinating Board could be established, composed of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, the Chairman and two other members of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Referring to section VII, he said that without resources there could be no meaningful programme. He therefore hoped that the global appeal to be launched by the programme would receive committed and adequate support from the international community, Governments, organizations and the private sector. A discernible impact needed to be made on the problem, in order to bring hope to those countries most affected and promise a foreseeable end to the pandemic.

The proposed budget for 1996-1997 should be treated as strictly provisional, as it was currently impossible to estimate programme requirements accurately. The Director's proposal would need to be reviewed once the programme became operational. Contributions from the co-sponsors should be predictable, and the programme should be forward-looking. The donor community and all who were in a position to contribute financially, materially or otherwise to the fight against HIV/AIDS should consider what was at stake, which in some cases was the survival of entire communities. Experience showed that no disease could ever be regarded with complacency, and that effective intervention against HIV/AIDS could have a decisive effect, possibly leading to its eradication.

Mr. GLASGOW (Canada) said that good progress had been made in developing the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme since the adoption of Council resolution 1994/24. He reiterated his support for the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, subject to the revisions to section VI on Governments and Management, which were being made to reflect the distinct reporting relationship between the Director and the Programme Coordinating Board as described in the annex to resolution 1994/24, and to clarify the respective

roles of the Programme Coordinating Board and the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations. Those fundamental aspects of governance should be fully understood by all interested parties.

The Council's help was needed in order for the programme to become operational. That would involve endorsement of both the details of the programme and the elements of the Programme Coordinating Board. It was therefore to be hoped that the open-ended working group would soon reconvene to complete its work on defining the elements of the Programme's governing body. Once those details had been completed, it would be possible to endorse the entire Programme. Thereafter, the Programme would have its own governing body.

He encouraged the co-sponsors to work closely with Mr. Piot to identify as quickly as possible the resources they would contribute to the programme, and the mechanisms to be used for implementation. The AIDS pandemic continued unabated, and it was essential to ensure that the new joint and co-sponsored programme became operational as soon as possible.

Mr. CONTINI (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, and in particular section VI on governance and management, would provide a good basis for discussion. The European Union reserved the right to come back to section VI with a few constructive amendments that would define the relations among the various participants in the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme. All co-sponsoring agencies should support the actions of the Director by all possible means. The European Union would participate constructively in the consultations on the composition of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Mr. AVALLE (Observer for Argentina) said that the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme should serve as an instrument to modify a critical situation that continued to worsen. His delegation therefore appealed to all Member States to support that initiative.

Mr. BIBERO (Venezuela) said that due consideration should be given to the socio-cultural realities of the countries in which the programme was carried out. In that regard, particular attention should be paid to the field of reproductive health and education.

Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that her delegation joined the representative of Argentina in urging all delegations to work hard to support the Programme.

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The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the statements just made, he took it that the Council wished to request the Permanent Representative of Australia to continue his consultations and make appropriate recommendations to the Council as called for in Council resolution 1994/24.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3: BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL (continued) (E/1995/L.5)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its consideration of the draft resolution contained in document E/1995/L.5, entitled "International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities". According to the consensus reached in informal consultations, the fourth and sixth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution had been deleted and paragraph 1 had been amended to read:

"1. Strongly recommends that the organizational session in 1996 adopts the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities as a theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1996."

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines) said that the Group of 77 and China had accepted the amendments to the draft resolution in a spirit of cooperation and on condition that no further changes would be made.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.5, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. BIBERO (Venezuela) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution because it was convinced that, in order to be productive and efficient, the Council must adopt its decisions unanimously. The priorities contained in General Assembly resolutions 48/12 of 28 October 1993 and 49/168 of 23 December 1994 and in the resolution just adopted should be duly considered by the Council in 1996.

Mr. TERRAZAS (Mexico) said that his delegation was concerned that the Council had not been able to comply fully with General Assembly resolutions 48/12 and 49/168, which had recommended that the issue of international cooperation in the field of narcotic drugs should be considered during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995. The resolution just adopted would enable the Council at its high-level segment in 1996 to agree on measures in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution

49/168. There should in future be greater consistency among the issues that delegations promoted in the Assembly and the ones promoted in the Council.

Mr. CONTINI (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and thanked the Latin American countries for having helped reach a compromise.

Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAUULT (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the comments made by the representative of Mexico. At its organizational session, the Council should pay closer attention to what it had been instructed to do at other sessions. While it did not encourage the Council to decide so far in advance on the agenda of its high-level segment of 1996, her delegation considered that that had been the only way to resolve a number of issues to which the Council had not given adequate consideration when they were on its agenda.

Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin) said that, while his delegation welcomed the adoption of the compromise text, the Council should be more consistent in complying with decisions that had been taken previously by the Council and the General Assembly.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)
(E/1995/INF.2)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue considering changes to the dates of the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations and drew the Council's attention to document E/1995/INF.2 containing the calendar of conferences.

After a discussion in which Mr. BUNCH (Chief, Programme and Documentation Planning Section), Mr. CONTINI (France), Ms. FENG (China), Mr. STOBY (Director of the Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs), Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria), Mr. MONGBE (Observer for Benin), Ms. IRISH (Canada), Ms. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica), Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines), Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAUULT (United States of America) and Mr. RAZA (Pakistan) took part, the PRESIDENT suggested a suspension to enable delegations to reach consensus on the issue.

The meeting was suspended at 7.15 p.m. and resumed at 7.20 p.m.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the meeting of the Working Group should be postponed and non-governmental organizations notified of the postponement, that

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English
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the eight-week rule should be waived and that the meeting should be scheduled to take place in May or June. The Bureau would determine and announce the date of the meeting following consultations with the Secretariat.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.30 p.m.



**Economic and Social
Council**

PROVISIONAL

E/1995/SR.7

21 June 1995

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Resumed organizational session for 1995

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 4 May 1995, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. KAMAL

(Pakistan)

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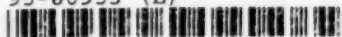
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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES,
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COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (continued)

UNITED NATIONS JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS
AND ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (HIV/AIDS)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference and Support Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.



The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

The PRESIDENT declared open the resumed organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1995/2 and Add.1 and 2, E/1995/54, E/1995/58, E/1995/L.6 and Corr.1, E/1995/L.12, E/1995/L.15, E/1995/INF/4) (continued)

The PRESIDENT, drawing attention to the provisional agenda for the organizational session for 1995 (E/1995/2), proposed that a new item entitled "Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: Reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions: Human rights questions" should be added to the provisional agenda for the Council's resumed organizational session.

He would take it that the Council agreed to the proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to Council decision 1995/214, entitled "Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development in the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment", recalling that, at its fifth plenary meeting, on 10 February 1995, the Council had decided that, at its resumed organizational session, it would discuss the manner in which the discussion on the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development could be organized during the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) said that his delegation wished to introduce some changes into the agenda for the high-level meeting to be held on the first day of the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment. Since that agenda appeared in decision 1995/213, he wondered what procedure could be used to modify a decision already adopted by the Council. Canada wished to make two specific proposals: (a) to add the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: "A secondary issue will be a preliminary exchange on the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development; focus could be given to the direction to be taken by the United Nations system to take

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an integrated approach to social and development issues"; and (b) to insert, after the words "in particular, with issues" in the first line of the third paragraph, the words "covered by both the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development".

The PRESIDENT said he was not certain whether or not the proposal constituted an amendment. If it did, it was inadmissible because a decision, once adopted, could not be amended. If it was a new decision, it would have to be submitted as a new draft decision, and the Council would then decide whether or not to adopt it.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that the matter of presentation could be resolved very simply. A decision could be proposed orally, which would start by recalling Economic and Social Council decisions 1995/213 and 1995/214, go on to refer to the secondary issue of the high-level meeting, and then set forth in a second paragraph how that could be addressed. That would avoid cumbersome procedures and legal obstacles.

The PRESIDENT, summing up, said that the Council could either adopt the decision right away by consensus or ask the Canadian delegation to submit it in writing so that the members could consider it and take a decision the following day; it was up to the members to decide.

Mrs. REBONG (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and supported by Cuba, pointed out that, once adopted, a decision could not be amended and that she would prefer to have the text in writing. The issue of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development should be considered at the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of the Council's substantive session.

Mr. CONTINI (France) agreed that it would be best to see the proposal in writing before taking a decision; considering that the spirit of the proposed addition was already reflected in decision 1995/213, he suggested that the Council should take note of the Canadian representative's comments, instead of initiating negotiations on the adoption of a new decision.

The PRESIDENT, in view of the opinions expressed, invited the Canadian delegation to produce a text which could then be translated and subsequently considered.

He then drew attention to Council decision 1995/218, entitled "Postponement of the 1995 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and of the second session of the Working Group on the Review of the Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations" and informed members that the second session of that Working Group would take place from 8 to 12 May 1995 and that the 1995 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was scheduled to take place from 12 to 23 June 1995.

Inclusion of an additional item (E/1995/58)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1995/58, which contained a letter dated 3 February 1995 from the Chairman of the Commission for Social Development addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council, the annex to which contained a draft resolution entitled "Tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond" and invited members to comment on it.

Mr. ELDEEB (Egypt), speaking as Chairman of the open-ended Working Group on Youth established by the Commission for Social Development, proposed that the issue be included as an additional item on the agenda for its current organizational session and asked the Council to postpone consideration of the item until formal and informal consultations with the groups concerned and with delegations had been completed. That would give him an opportunity to explain the work being done by the Working Group.

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council members agreed to the proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT, referring to documents E/1995/L.6 and E/1995/L.6/Corr.1 on the adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters, said that, following informal consultations, a general agreement had been reached on the basic programme of work. However, the operational activities segment of the programme of work would be prolonged for one more day and the programme would be adjusted accordingly, pursuant to the resolution on restructuring, which established a five-day segment on operational activities. If the Council members had any comments, a revised programme of work would be published in mid-May.

Mr. FLORENCIO (Brazil) recalled that at its third session, held in New York in April 1995, the Commission on Sustainable Development had decided to

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establish an intergovernmental panel on forests, which would hold its first meeting in late June. Since that meeting could not be held without the Council's approval, he suggested that the issue should be considered under agenda item 3 (Basic programme of work of the Council) of the resumed organizational session of the Council which was scheduled to begin in about 10 days.

The PRESIDENT said he would take note of the Brazilian delegation's suggestion.

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire), referring to an issue raised at the preceding session - the access of permanent missions to United Nations databases - suggested that the Council should recommend that such access be granted immediately, and should therefore consider the issue at its next substantive session.

The PRESIDENT said he understood that the issue would be addressed at the next substantive session during the segment on general issues.

Mr. DELACROIX (France) said he supported the proposal of the representative of Brazil concerning the intergovernmental panel on forests, and emphasized the importance of the establishment of that panel and the desirability of enabling it to begin work as soon as possible.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) asked how many resumed sessions the Council had scheduled for 1995.

The PRESIDENT said that that had yet to be decided. For that reason, he had taken note of the proposal put forward by Brazil and supported by France. As matters stood, it was likely that a resumed organizational session, probably lasting one day, would be held prior to the substantive session, in late May or early June.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) asked whether document E/1995/L.6/Corr.1 had been adopted definitively or whether it would be considered again at a later meeting, since he wished to make a proposal before it was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the document would be adopted at the substantive session after circulation of the revised version, which should be before the Council by 15 May. That revised version would be further considered in order to formulate a detailed programme of work reflecting the general consensus. It would only be adopted by the Economic and Social Council itself.

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Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) expressed his concern at the fact that full documentation was not being received and asked the Secretariat to take appropriate steps to ensure that all documents were made available at the same time in order to avoid continuous interruptions in the work of delegations.

The PRESIDENT took note of the suggestion made by the delegation of Cuba and said that appropriate steps would be taken.

Draft decision E/1995/L.15

Mr. PAPADATOS (Vice-President)* said that delegations had before them a report to the Council, an unofficial document that he had produced for the simple reason that while chairing an informal group on documentation he had not wished to add to the Secretariat's work by requesting the preparation of one more document. The first page indicated step by step the gestation of a document and the different stages in its preparation. Delegations could conceptualize the process by looking at the chart portraying the various stages. The second page dealt with the issue of deadlines and could also help delegations to understand the different deadlines involved for different documents.

Immediately after the Council's organizational session the President had announced his decision to devote as much time as possible to thorough preparation of the regular session of the Economic and Social Council in the context of enlarged Bureau meetings. At the first such meeting it had become apparent that the regular session of the Council could not be organized unless the programme of work was issued on time for consideration by delegations and all requirements pertaining to the timely availability of documents were met.

Delays in the distribution of documents had become so severe that any programme of work of the Economic and Social Council was at risk of being compromised. In brief, a firm schedule for the regular session of the Council could neither be adhered to nor issued in advance because of the uncertainty surrounding the availability of documents, which was a dangerous development. It implied that it was the documentation that dictated the Council's programme

* This statement has been given full coverage in the summary record in accordance with the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council during the meeting.

of work and that delegations had no control over it. There was an intimate relationship between the programme of work and the availability of documentation. The one could not exist without the other. It was obvious that the two went together and that the programme and documents must be available on time. For those compelling reasons an informal open-ended group on documentation had been established. It had been entrusted with ensuring that the six-week rule was complied with and with identifying the causes for documentation delays that had plagued the Council for years.

All were fully aware that the problem of documentation was not a Council problem but system-wide, and that it affected the lives and work of all delegates in the United Nations. The exercise had nothing to do with cost-cutting or with reform. The end-product should be to obtain the timely issuance of as many documents as possible, a necessary condition for the smooth and efficient conduct of the substantive session of the Council for 1995. The open-ended group had met twice and he had received a lot of encouragement for his efforts.

With reference to the measures taken so far, the provisional programme of work of the Economic and Social Council was already out in all official languages and was in the hands of delegations. For the first time delegations had the benefit of an early programme of work of the Council. One of the advantages of such a programme was that it allowed ministries and missions to prepare their staff for debates and to make early travel arrangements. It also helped in optimizing the composition of delegations by allowing them to send the right people to participate in meetings in accordance with the dates established for the consideration of specific items.

A letter had been sent to all competent departments of the Secretariat for them to take care of the delays associated with the so-called production process (stage III), explained on page 1 of the report. The letter, signed by the President of the Council, had been sent because the majority of delays occurred at that stage. The letter brought out the issue of deadlines. It seemed that the letter and concern expressed by the Bureau had gone beyond the level of awareness-raising in the Secretariat and were being taken seriously. Many responses had come in, which appeared to indicate that the process in stage III had been accelerated. Only some of them had given specific reasons why deadlines had not been met. Subsequently a meeting had taken place with the

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Officer-in-Charge of the Documents Control Section in the Office of Conference and Support Services, and a similar letter had been sent to that Office.

It seemed that major delays occurred at stage V (namely the Office of Conference and Support Services), mainly because of late submission of documents. Moreover a number of documents were submitted in incorrect editorial form, thus requiring substantive corrections and time-consuming rewriting.

Late submitters often penalized departments that met submission deadlines. For example, the proposed programme budget, a document of close to 2,000 pages, had been received only three weeks before the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) had been scheduled to meet on 15 May, which coincided with the six-week deadline for the Economic and Social Council. It appeared that everything else, regardless of the date of submission, had been put on the back burner to accommodate the CPC documentation. With minor exceptions if documents were submitted on time to Conference Services there were no problems in meeting the six-week deadline.

He drew attention to a number of facts and the state of play regarding certain key reports for the substantive session: the total number of documents for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1995 was 86, but as of the previous week only six documents had met the 12-week rule and only eight the 10-week rule. It was projected that 20 documents of the 86 would be issued by 15 May, when the six-week deadline fell due. The Office of Conference and Support Services was already processing late submissions faster than expected.

He noted that the following reports would not be issued on time (six-week rule) and that it was not clear when they would be available to delegations: a report on the development of Africa for the high-level segment; three reports expected for the coordination segment; a report on operational activities (triennial review); a report of the Commission on Population and Development; a report on assistance to the Palestinian people; a report on Israeli settlements; and a report on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

At the last meeting of the open-ended informal group on documentation he had submitted some proposals that all the participants in the group had approved of and which he had promised to submit to the Council in the form of a draft decision. The open-ended working group had also discussed how the issue of

documentation was to be followed up on. A tentative agreement had been reached that he should continue to monitor the situation, report to the enlarged Bureau and submit a final report to the substantive session.

Introducing draft decision E/1995/L.15 concerning documentation, he said that the document, which had three parts, contained a small yet sensible innovation comprising an indication in the provisional programme of work document of what reports would be available under each item. So far delegations had not had one document indicating both. That should greatly facilitate the consideration of documents by delegations. In the draft decision there would thus be a listing, side by side, in addition to agenda items, of the reports expected under each segment and/or item.

Paragraph (b) of the draft decision would require that a report on the status of documentation should be available three weeks before the resumed organizational session of the Council. It was his view that that was a necessary measure for members of the Economic and Social Council and observers to have an idea of where matters stood regarding documentation, for the Bureau and Council to be able to act, and for the latter to be able to deal with the issue during the resumed organizational session.

Paragraph (c) of the draft decision dealt with a very unfortunate situation that all had experienced, namely, that documents were issued one or two days before the item was to be considered by the Council or on the same day. That was unfortunate, and some explanation would be needed, with some form of accountability for delays. Accordingly the officer responsible for the introduction of the report should be accountable to the Council and give reasons for the delay.

He trusted that the Council would adopt draft decision E/1995/L.15 by consensus, bearing in mind that no major problems had emerged during the informal consultations.

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union and France were aware of the problems caused by delays in the distribution of documents and the impact on the effective functioning of the Economic and Social Council. In that regard the Vice-President's report was opportune in that it clarified the procedure followed by the Secretariat and its limitations. It had increased awareness on the part of the various departments of the Secretariat and members of the Council concerning the seriousness of the

problem. It was to be hoped that the Vice-President's work would achieve positive results, particularly with regard to the distribution of documentation. The Council should thus adopt draft decision E/1995/L.15.

He proposed that the Vice-President's full statement should appear as an annex to the summary record of the meeting.

Mrs. REBONG (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, in her view, the President should say when a decision must be taken on draft decision E/1995/L.15.

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire) said that everything possible must be done to avoid delays in the distribution of documents. Draft decision E/1995/L.15 should be adopted immediately and should serve as a reference for members of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat.

The PRESIDENT said that two proposals had been made, namely, that the report of the Vice-President should appear as a document of the Economic and Social Council (proposal by France); and that a decision should be taken on the matter that same day (proposal by Côte d'Ivoire).

Mr. OTUYELU (Nigeria) said that the Vice-President's report not only drew attention to the problems that existed but also suggested solutions to them. In view of its balanced content, Nigeria supported the proposal by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire that a decision should be taken on the report and that the report should appear as a document of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the Secretariat was fully aware that, in order for the Economic and Social Council to function effectively, it was necessary to ensure the timely distribution of documents to delegations, without the delays that occasionally occurred.

The delays in the distribution of reports of intergovernmental bodies were due to the fact that, because of the increasing number of meetings of such bodies, it was not always possible to schedule those meetings far enough ahead to enable their reports to be prepared and translated well in advance of the Council's sessions.

With regard to the documentation for the series of coordination meetings, high-level meetings and meetings on operational activities, delays occurred because decisions on the items to be considered at each of those series of

meetings were only taken in February at the earliest. Moreover, documents for those series of meetings underwent a long and complicated process of preparation, since they had to include system-wide information and that involved holding detailed inter-agency consultations. That careful process of preparation was particularly important in the Council's case, given the coordinating role that it was called upon to play.

He considered the discussion held in the open-ended informal working group and in the Council, and the proposals made, to be positive. He was prepared to give explanations when a report was late, and he assured members that the Secretariat was doing everything in its power to prepare documentation on time. In that connection, he invited delegations to visit the competent departments during any weekend to see for themselves how staff worked tirelessly to prepare the required reports.

Despite the resource constraints it faced, to date the Secretariat had not refused to prepare any report requested by the Council, nor had it requested additional resources, believing that delegations had shown that they understood the pressure of work involved in preparing documentation. He assured delegations that everything possible would be done to ensure that at the Council's next and subsequent sessions the documentation would be ready on time.

The PRESIDENT said that it was clearly necessary to improve the documentation system. All Council members and all Secretariat staff were working towards that goal and had the same interest in ensuring that documentation was of the highest quality, was issued on time and was useful to the Council. However, those objectives had not always been achieved, in that on numerous occasions documents had not been ready by the specified deadlines. For example, the report presented at the current meeting by Mr. Papadatos, Vice-President of the Council, stated that only 20 of the 86 documents required for the Council's substantive session would be issued by the date stipulated in the rules, namely, six weeks before the start of the session. A solution must be found to the continuing problems with documentation and he hoped that at the current organizational session the Council would help to find a solution to those difficulties.

Mrs. REBONG (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, referred to the proposal that the report of the open-ended informal working group on documentation should be included in the official documentation

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of the Council. Her delegation felt that the report was extremely useful and offered an in-depth analysis of substantive issues; however, before the Council took a decision on the proposal, the Secretariat should clarify whether a document prepared by an informal working group had the appropriate legal status to be included in the official documentation of a session of the Council.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the proposal made by France was that the text of the report presented orally by Mr. Papadatos should be included in the official documentation of the Council.

Mr. DELACROIX (France) said that his delegation had merely suggested that the oral report by Mr. Papadatos should be reproduced for information purposes as an annex to the report of the open-ended informal working group on documentation.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the French delegation would be in favour of reproducing the statement by Mr. Papadatos in extenso in the summary record of the meeting. That would also meet the concern expressed by the delegation of the Philippines, since the report itself would not be included in the official documentation but the oral statement by Mr. Papadatos would be reproduced in the summary record. Since that proposal met the concerns of both delegations, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the other members of the Council were in favour of proceeding along those lines.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to consider draft decision E/1995/L.15, entitled "Draft proposal submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. George Papadatos (Greece), on the basis of open-ended informal consultations", and asked whether the members of the Council wished to take any decisions on the matter.

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking as the representative of his country and not as the representative of the European Union, proposed that the following amendment should be made to draft decision E/1995/L.15: in the fourth line of paragraph (a), the words "in all the official languages" should be added after the words "agenda items".

The PRESIDENT said that, if no other delegation wished to take the floor on draft decision E/1995/L.15, he would take it that the members of the Council wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally amended by the delegation of France.

It was so decided.

Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) asked what was the status of the document just distributed to delegations following the adoption of the draft decision.

The PRESIDENT said that it was an unofficial document which Mr. Papadatos had been kind enough to prepare for information purposes to explain the reasons for his oral statement which was to be reproduced in extenso in the summary record of the meeting.

Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece) thanked all delegations, the Bureau and all those people who had assisted him in preparing the document.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES,
CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Draft decision E/1995/L.12

The PRESIDENT, responding to the request by Mr. Musa Hitam, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, contained in document E/1995/54, invited the Council to consider, under item 10 of the agenda that had just been adopted, draft decision E/1995/L.12, entitled "Situation of human rights in Burundi", which the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-first session, had decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

Mr. DESAGNEAUX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed the European Union's profound concern at the deteriorating situation in Burundi, which was increasingly characterized by serious violations of human rights and constant acts of violence instigated by extremists. The European Union had called repeatedly for everything possible to be done to bring about national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy in Burundi. For that reason, the European Union, together with the delegation of Burundi and the Group of African States, had played an active role in the elaboration of the draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Burundi", which the Commission on Human Rights had adopted by consensus on 8 March.

In that resolution, the Commission had demanded that its Chairman appoint rapidly, after consultation with the Bureau, a special rapporteur with the task of drawing up a report on the situation of human rights in Burundi. The European Union noted with satisfaction the speed with which the Chairman of the Commission had appointed the Special Rapporteur.

The situation required that the Special Rapporteur should be able to commence his mission as soon as possible and that he should have all the

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necessary resources. Although some improvement has been observed in recent weeks, the situation of human rights in Burundi continued to give cause for concern. Consolidation of the process of national reconciliation in Burundi and a return to normal democratic life were of the utmost priority. The European Union reiterated its readiness to participate in strengthening the measures taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights to provide support, in particular, for the dispatch to Burundi of a team of human rights experts. Action was already being taken in that regard and a credit of \$3 million European Currency Units had been provided to cover the cost of sending those experts. The modalities for the European Union's assistance in strengthening the rule of law and the administration of justice in Burundi would be determined when the Burundi authorities indicated what their needs were.

The European Union hoped that the international community, which was already playing an active role through the person of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, would direct all its efforts towards national reconciliation in Burundi. It therefore hoped that the Council would adopt the draft decision currently under consideration. Nevertheless, it wished to know whether the adoption of the draft decision would have financial implications for the programme budget.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that he supported draft decision E/1995/12 and proposed that, in the English version, the word "demand" in the second line should be replaced by "request", and the words "drawing up" in the fourth line should be replaced by "preparing".

Mr. FERNÁNDEZ-PALACIOS (Cuba) said that as a member of the Commission on Human Rights, his country had joined in the consensus which had resulted in the adoption of resolution 1995/90, entitled "Situation of human rights in Burundi". His Government was concerned at the situation in Burundi and hoped that the serious problems in that country would be solved.

As a matter of procedure, however, his delegation was concerned at the practice of considering substantive issues at the Council's organizational session. That was not the first time that the Council had received, at its organizational session, letters from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights dealing with substantive issues that should be considered at the Council's substantive session. While his delegation felt that draft decision

E/1995/L.12 should be adopted by consensus, that should not create a precedent for considering substantive issues at the Council's organizational sessions.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Economic and Social Council), replying to the question by the representative of France, said that the adoption of draft decision E/1995/L.12 would not have programme budget implications.

The PRESIDENT said that if no other delegation wished to take the floor on draft decision E/1995/L.12, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally amended, by consensus.

It was so decided.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria) recalled that his country had introduced the draft resolution on Burundi in the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. Algeria welcomed the Council's adoption of a draft decision on the issue as evidence of the international community's profound concern for the African countries and for the crises affecting some of them. His Government hoped that the international community would continue to keep such issues under review and that the Council would adopt similar decisions whenever such serious situations arose in Africa.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 10.

COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of agenda item 4, entitled "Committee for Development Planning", and drew attention to Council decision 1995/215 of 10 February entitled "Committee for Development Planning", in which the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit nominations to the Council at its resumed organizational session in May 1995 or, at the latest, at its substantive session of 1995, for reconstitution of the membership of the Committee for Development Planning, and to reconvene the reconstituted Committee before the end of 1995. The Secretariat had informed him that the nominations would be submitted to the Council in July at its substantive session. The Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

UNITED NATIONS JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (HIV/AIDS)

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that in its resolution 1994/24 the Economic and Social Council had decided that consultations should be held,

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inter alia, on the question of the composition of the Programme Coordinating Board for the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme. The Council had requested him, as President of the Council at the time of the adoption of resolution 1994/24, to undertake those consultations.

As a result, the following agreement had been reached: the Programme Coordinating Board would comprise 22 members elected for a three-year term, as follows: five from the Group of African States, five from the Group of Asian States, three from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, two from the Group of Eastern European States and seven from the Group of Western European and Other States.

In order to endure continuity on the Board, following the first election there would be a drawing of lots in which one third of those elected would have a term of one year, one third a term of two years and one third a term of three years. The first election would be conducted by the Economic and Social Council. Further consultations would be held to decide which body or bodies would be responsible for conducting subsequent elections.

Further consultations would also be required on the question of the participation in the Board of representatives of the six co-sponsoring organizations and non-governmental organizations.

In addition to Member States of the United Nations, observer States would also be able to submit their candidacy for election. It was proposed that the first elections should take place in the Council on 1 June 1995, at which time it was expected that the Council would meet to consider the future programme of work of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on the basis, inter alia, of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations. The report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations would be available by 12 May and it was hoped that, following its consideration of the report, the Council would meet on 1 and 2 June to complete another part of its mandate, as provided for in paragraph 11 of resolution 1994/24, namely, to make its recommendations on the Programme and to elect the members of the Programme Coordinating Board.

The issue of the group from which Japan would be eligible for election had been addressed and it had been agreed that Japan should be included in the Group of Asian States and consequently, that the Board should have 22 rather than 21 members. He emphasised that in arriving at that agreement, it had been recognized by all concerned that the agreement was unique to the Joint and

Co-sponsored Programme and its Programme Coordinating Board and thus did not, and could not, form the basis of a precedent to be followed in other organs. It should also be underlined that the agreement reflected the very serious universal concern that the Programme should be given a Programme Coordinating Board without further delay in order to facilitate its substantive work. For those reasons, he urged Council acceptance of that agreement and of the proposal that the Programme Coordinating Board should be elected on 1 June 1995.

Mr. AMORIM (Brazil) said that there was no time to lose in dealing with an epidemic which affected all countries equally, whether developing or developed. By the end of 1994 there had been 4.5 million AIDS cases world wide and 18 million adults and 1.5 million children infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. As one of the countries most seriously affected by the pandemic, Brazil was firmly committed to achieving the Programme's goals.

Concerning the consideration of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, he emphasized that while the Programme could not be carried out without the full participation of the six Co-sponsoring Organizations, it should not be limited to the inter-agency coordination of activities but should serve as a catalyst for mobilizing resources to combat that terrible pandemic.

Mr. KANE (Mauritania), speaking as Chairman of the Group of African States, said that while the Group had gone along with the agreement so as not to delay the establishment of the Programme Coordinating Board, it wished to emphasize that the agreement on the allocation of seats to the different regional groups should not create a precedent and welcomed the fact that Mr. Butler's report made the same point.

Mr. KAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) reiterated his commitment to the agreement, despite his understanding that Africa had not been given due consideration in the allocation of seats.

Mr. OKANIWA (Japan) said that his country attached considerable importance to the issue as evidenced by a global initiative on AIDS and population in which Japan was to invest some \$30 billion over the next seven years. Concerning the allocation of seats, the inclusion of Japan in the Group of Asian States would not create a precedent for the adoption of future decisions in that regard. Japan had agreed to be part of the Group of Asian States in order to facilitate negotiations, not to set a precedent.

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Ms. YANG-YANYI (China) said that she agreed with the composition of the Programme Coordinating Board, in view of its importance and the pressing need for it to be established. However, the allocation of seats was not fully in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, under which it had been established. She was concerned that countries could decide which group they belonged to at will. That should not set a precedent for the functioning of other bodies. The seat that had been added was for the Group of Asian States as a whole and the outcome of the nominations should not be affected by the special circumstances of the case.

Another important issue which should be considered further was the participation in the Board of the representatives of the six co-sponsoring organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. ELDEED (Egypt) said that the allocation of seats on the Programme Coordinating Board should not create a precedent. His delegation endorsed the agreement on the understanding that that was an issue which required the consensus of the international community. However, the need for equitable distribution of seats should be borne in mind, especially with regard to Africa, given that continent's difficult HIV/AIDS situation.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that he was prepared to work with the Secretariat on the proposed decision. As the observer for Algeria had noted, it was important that the report on the agreement that Australia had presented to the Council should be included in the Council's documents. He would work with the Secretariat to that end, on the basis of the statement he had made to the Council.

The PRESIDENT said that, despite the reservations expressed by some delegations concerning some aspects of the report presented by Mr. Butler, there was overall agreement on the report. Moreover, in view of the importance of the question, it was likely that the report would be endorsed in a draft resolution or decision that Australia might wish to introduce.

Mr. KAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) requested that the comments made by Mr. Butler, his own delegation and any other delegations that so wished should be included in the report.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.